



Church of the Ascension

12615 Fountain Hills Boulevard
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268
Parish Office: (480)837-1066
FAX: (480) 837-9093
www.ascensionfh.org
ascension@diocesephoenix.org

PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor: Rev. John T. McDonough
Deacon: Richard Smith
Deacon: Phil LoCascio
Pastoral Associate: Therese Barnhart
E-mail: tbarnhart@diocesephoenix.org
Director of Catechetical Ministries: Ken Blakeman
E-mail: kblakeman@diocesephoenix.org
Pastoral Care Ministry Coordinator: Leann Gratz
E-mail: ascension@diocesephoenix.org
Music Director: Charles Szczepanek
Marriage and Family Therapist: Gerry Blakeman, M.A. LMFT
Coordinator of High School Youth Ministry: Kristen Herela
Coordinator of M. School Youth Ministry: Sandy Bercel
Secretary: Rosemarie Andersen
Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor: Steve Bonomolo
Bookkeeper: Mary Lou Kubes
St. Vincent de Paul Help Line: (480)837-7287

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY SCHEDULE

Daily Masses: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri - 8:00AM
Weekend Liturgies
Saturday: 5:00PM
Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM and 5:00PM
Holy Days: 7:00PM Vigil Mass (day before)
8:00AM Holy Day
Reconciliation: Saturdays 3:30-4:30PM
Adoration: First Friday of month 8:30AM- 12:30PM
St. Dominic's Mission—Rio Verde
Sundays: 10:00AM
Rosemary Palys - Secretary - (480)471-2112

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Inquire at the parish office.
Marriages: Nine month notice
Sick Calls: Immediately Call- (480) 837-1066

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Parish Mission Statement:
Committed to build, strengthen and nurture the
Body of Christ

WELCOME

*Our community welcomes
all who come
through our doors to worship and seek spiritual
nourishment.*

*As a Stewardship parish
we respect and embrace
an individual's time, talent and treasure.*

*To join our faith community,
please contact the office.*

STEWARDSHIP

Time - Talent - Treasure

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

December 10/11

Attendance	971
This Week's Collection	\$ 9,356
Misc	\$ 535
ACH	\$ 6,720
Total	\$ 17,171
Average weekly plate	
income since July 1, 2011	\$ 14,031
Weekly Budgeted Income	\$ 14,904

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR ENVELOPES OUTSIDE ON THE PATIO. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ENVELOPES AND WISH TO GET SOME PLEASE COME INTO OR CALL THE OFFICE. THANK YOU!



Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. In faith is found the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas. In helping those who are poor and suffering we find the real, lasting and deep joy of Christmas.



- + = Deceased loved one
- ♥ = Wedding Anniversary
- * = Living Intention

17-Saturday	5:00pm	+Mary Krzywicki
18-Sunday	8:00am	People of the Parish
18-Sunday	10:00am	+Victor G. Marcin
18-Sunday	5:00pm	+Peter Robert Battel
19-Monday	8:00am	+Fred Rosch
20-Tuesday	8:00am	+Victor Marcin
21-Wednesday	8:00am	+Helen Radochonski
22-Thursday	8:00am	Morning Prayer
23-Friday	8:00am	+Mildred Syke
24-Saturday	4:00pm	+Nicholas & Raymond Scott
24-Saturday	4:10pm	+John & Sue Teschner
24-Saturday	6:00pm	+Silvestre Cascio
24-Saturday	10:00pm	+Kevin & George McInerney
25-Sunday	8:00am	+Jerry Wilhelm
25-Sunday	10:00am	+People of the Parish



A CHRISTMAS BLESSING FOR THE HOME

Loving God,
as we gather at Christmas around the manger, which reminds us of the birth of your Son, we ask you to dwell in our hearts and our home.

Bless every member of our family,
and strengthen the bond of love among us. May we joyfully praise you like the angel choir that announced the birth of your son to the shepherds watching over their flocks.

May we show your love to others with the same brightness of the star that guided the Wise Men to offer gifts to the newborn King.

Make our family holy, just like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, so that we may always live in peace and love. Amen.

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

— Lk 1:35

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



Readings for the Week of December 18, 2011

Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Thursday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
Next Sunday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

PRAY FOR OUR SICK



**PLEASE CALL 480-837-1066
TO PUT SOMEONE ON THE
SICK LIST.**

**If you wish to add someone to the list please
call the office: 480-837-1066**

*Howard Asher, Dona Butler, Raymond Coccioli,
George Mathews, Elaina Niebaum, Sargon Kenoun,
Astrid Asche, Pat Fraser, Rosemarie Selleck, Nick
Pranno, Walter Yaeger, and all of those who care for
the sick.*

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

**If you wish to add someone to the list please
call the office: 480-837-1066**

Adlam, US Navy Ryan	MacDonald, Sgt. William J
Anderson, Kevin, USMC Col.	Massie, Lt. Nick
Amaral, Sgt. Major John	Messerschmidt, Adm. John
Bliss, Major Mike US Army	Maffei, Richard Airforce
Blogg, Terry	Martin, Lt. Trevor
Campbell, Sgt. John	Miranda GSMI(SW) Eli
Carroll Pvt. Michael J.	McLunty, 1st LT. Timothy
Clay, Capt. Jordan, USMC	McNally, 1st Lt. Daniel
Collins, Sgt. Jeff	McNally, LCDR Brad
Cooper, HT2 Dustin	Parks, Danielle, SPC-4
Delaney, Cpl. Adam M.	Patterson, Nathan A. FRA
Derby, PFC Christopher	Petrosik, MDSP Robby
Didch, Corp. John Kevin	Peterson, Capt. Blaine
Downen Capt., Maureen USAF	Pickel, Cpl. Sean SSUSMC
David, Major David P. Army	Pranske, Capt. Brian
Ericksen, Sgt. Thomas	Riley, Cpl. Raymond USMC
Frank, UB2 Joseph	Rollins, LT j.g. Michele
Frazer, Lt. Kyle	Rosales, PFC April
Fulsome, Michael USMC	Sculley, Major Sean
Galvin, Spc. Joey	Stang, Cpl. Jonathan
Gossner, Capt. Greg	Stehly, Major Joseph , USM
Gratz, Brian, USAF	Shelley, Lt. Julie
Habhab, PFC Justan	Schmit, 1st Lt. Anthony
Hall, Capt. Bryan	Shelley, Lt. Julie
Hardin, Spc. Jesse	Stepanek Jr, M. Sgt. Jeffrey
Hockmuth, Capt. Joe	Tyler, Private Kevin, Army
Howard, 1st Lt. Michael	Travis, Capt. Adam
Keller, Capt. Jonathan	Turlip, Col. Doug , USMC
Kellar, Airforce AIC, Richard	Vitellaro, 2nd LT Matthew
Keith, Capt. Adam, AF	Weeden, Pvt. Blake E.
Keith, Capt. Victoria AF	White, C.W.O. Dan
Koontz, PFC Kallie	Wirtz, Major Brian, USMC
Kotchikian, C.W.O. Ara	Wolovlek, Sgt./Platoon Mark
Lewandowski, Robert PO 2nd Class	

Q *If each of the Gospels recounts the life and teaching of Jesus, why are they not the same? Don't the differences prove that the Gospels are not accurate?*

A Whenever all my siblings are together and we begin to talk about events in our family, there are various versions of the same story. We remember different details and recall our own perspective on how things happened, why we did things they way we did, and even how good the food was! That's because every story has an objective and a subjective point of view. There are facts to each story, historical and verifiable, as well as each person's experience and viewpoint as those events occurred.

The same is true of the Gospels. Each Gospel writer has a particular theological point of view, as well as a particular audience he is addressing that influences how he tells the story. You'll notice, however, that the teaching of Jesus is consistent in each of the Gospels. The stories and details may differ, as well as the Evangelists' choice of which stories to include, because the purpose of the Gospels is theological, not biographical. Each writer seeks to convey the message of salvation that Jesus proclaims. That message is clear, consistent, real, and eternal. That does not change.

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PRESIDER SCHEDULE

Weekend of December 24/25

Saturday 4:00PM	Fr. Frank
Saturday 4:10PM	Fr. John
Saturday 6:00PM	Fr. Frank
Saturday 10:00PM	Fr. John
Sunday 8:00AM	Fr. John
Sunday 10:00AM	Msgr. Gil Rutz

schedule subject to change

QUESTIONS OF FAITH

QUESTIONS OF FAITH

All parishioners are welcome to this rich, yet informal, prayer/share experience. There is a new topic each week but we also take the time to address questions attendees have about our church, our beliefs, our faith, and simply how to live it. We welcome you to come each week or as you can call Deacon Phil at 602-920-7867 for more information.

- **December 18 - Saints** - *Did the saints live saintly lives? Who is your favorite saint, and why? Can anyone become a saint? Do you have what it takes to be a saint: Does the church need saints today, and why do you think so?*
- **December 25-No Session**
- **January 1-No Session**

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION for next Sunday

Reading 1 Isaiah 52:7-10 Reflection

This reading is filled with images of sight and sound. A messenger appears on the mountaintop bringing glad tidings of peace. Guards shout for joy as they witness what they had longed to see: God bringing comfort and salvation. All Jerusalem (that means all God's people) breaks into a song of joy at the good news of God's coming. The prophet is telling the people, through these images of joy, salvation, and peace, that our saving God will come.

Reading 2 Hebrews 1:1-6 Reflection

In this reading we are told that in times past God spoke through the prophets. But now God speaks to us through Jesus Christ, the only Son of the Father. On Christmas Day, Jesus was born. The Son of God became one of us. Jesus continues to speak to us today. He speaks to us in the Scriptures and in the liturgy. We hear him in the teachings of the Church. We find him in others, in those who love us, in those we don't even know, and especially in those who need us most. Today we join the angels of God to worship God's Son, who has come among us, and comes today in some very surprising ways and some very unexpected places.

Gospel John 1:1-5, 9-14 Reflection

The images of seeing and hearing continue in the gospel. John tells us that what we hear and see is God's own Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. He came among us as one of us for our human eyes to see and love and welcome. Jesus came to be with us, to teach us about his Father, and to tell us about God's kingdom. What can we do to show Jesus that we love and welcome him? We can worship him. We can talk with him, telling him of our hopes and dreams. We can try to be people who bring his peace and light and joy everywhere we go.

How does Jesus' Incarnation bring you joy?



RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Imagine! and *Catholic Kidz* Sessions

The next meeting for *Imagine!* (Kindergarten and 1st grade) and *Catholic Kidz* (2nd and 3rd grades) is **Tuesday, January 3, 2012, 6-7:30 pm** in the parish hall. May you all have a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Buzz (4th and 5th grade) will have its next meeting on **Friday, January 6, 2012, 6-9pm**. Bring a friend and win a prize! May you all have a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

First Reconciliation

The next session for families desiring their children to receive their First Reconciliation in February, 2012, is **Sunday, January 8, 2012, 11:30 am -12:30 pm**, meeting in the Church. At least one parent is required to attend with the child. Please remember to bring the home kit pages for review.

Confirmation/First Eucharist

The next session for those desiring to receive Confirmation or Confirmation and First Eucharist in spring 2012, is **Sunday, January 8, 2012, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**, meeting in the Church. At least one parent/guardian/sponsor is required to attend with the candidate. Please remember to bring the home kit pages for review. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Blakeman, 480-837-1066 x26 or kblakeman@diocesephoenix.org.

Confirmation and First Eucharist is scheduled for **Sunday, May 20, 2012, at the 10:00 am morning mass**. Rev. Dennis O'Rourke, Dean of the Northeast Deanery will be the celebrant.

Catholic IQ - A Question for Fun and Enlightenment

Answer to last week's Question.

d) Our Lady of Guadalupe was named by Pope John Paul II the "Patron of the Americas" – North, Central, and South America. Her Feast day is December 12.

This week's Question

The Church Militant refers to a) Catholics serving in the military; b) the blessed ones in heaven; c) the baptized living on earth today; d) intense and serious Catholics

YOUTH GROUPS



C.C.T. Middle School Youth Group News

C.C.T. Youth Group Nights

Sunday, January 8th, 2012

Sunday, January 22nd, 2012

6:00pm to 7:30pm

The Cool Catholic Teen's Team would like to wish you all a happy and safe Holiday Season. May God bless you and all your families.

Thank you to all that participated in the Gold Canyon Fundraiser!
We raised \$767.48 to be split between
Andre House & St. Vincent de Paul

Questions? Sandy Bercel at 837-1066 or sbercel@diocesephoenix.org





Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM in the Church

4:10 PM in the hall

6:00 PM in the Church

10:00 PM in the Church

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

8:00 AM 10:00 AM

NO 5:00 PM Mass

THE HOLIDAYS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

We are stocked up on Food Coupons and Fair Trade Coffee

Remember to purchase FOOD CARDS for Fry's and Basha's We sell Fry's & Basha's cards that can be renewed at the store! With each purchase the parish receives a percentage that goes into the Building Fund. Food cards can be purchased in the parish office during the week or on Sunday mornings.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE compliments your delicious pumpkin pie! We offer a regular **House Blend, Dark Roast, Espresso** or **Decaf** coffee at \$15.00 per pound. It can be purchased in the parish office during regular business hours or after weekend Masses. Proceeds go to the parish to fund various education activities.



FRANCISCAN RENEWAL CENTER

Celebrate the beginning of the New Year at the Casa!

"Finding Christ in the New Year, now that the shepherds have gone home"

December 30-January 1

Friday - Sunday

Franklin Fong, OFM

Chris and Pam Bork, MG Johnson

What gifts has God planted in our lives? What are our life experiences? What are the barriers, blocks and pot holes that keep us from gently walking on this journey of faith? How do we bless them and continue on our journey to discover Christ in the world?

Join us for a festive New Year's Eve dinner, superb music, spiritual teachings, conversation and more! Fees per person include lodging, meals and materials: \$215 single: \$165 double
Commuter includes meals and materials: \$130
Check-in Friday, 5 pm; dinner, 6 pm.
Retreat concludes with lunch on Sunday.
Register online: www.thecasa.org or
Register by phone: call 480-948-7460, ext. 157
5802 E. Lincoln Drive · Scottsdale, Arizona 85253
480-948-7460 · 800.356.3247 · Fax 480-948-2325
E-mail casa@thecasa.org · www.thecasa.org



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School News

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School will begin "Catholic Schools Week" with a family Mass at 9:30am on Sunday, January 29th, followed by an open house and information session. You are invited to tour our campus, visit classrooms, and meet teachers. Join us in Maguire Hall at 11:30am for an information session with school principal, Donna Lauro, and members of our Parent Advisory Board. 2012-2013 registration packets for grades K-8 will be available. Come see why OLPH has been offering excellence in Catholic education for over 50 years.